GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6300
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
ZERO BUDGET FARMING
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of zero budget farming being adopted in various parts of the country to increase agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for widespread publicity of zero budget fanning in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Zero Budget Farming, also known as Natural Farming, Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) and Holistic Agriculture is a method of agriculture that reduces commercial expenditure and market dependency of farmers for inputs like fertilizers and pesticides. It combines knowledge of ecology and modern technology with traditional farming practices and relies on naturally occurring biological pro- cesses. The principles of ZBNF include crop rotation, green manuring and compost application, besides biological pest control.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research operates a Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) aimed at evolving technology packages for organic agriculture since 2004-05. The technology packages developed under NPOF are transmitted to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for upscaling. Under the NPOF capacity building programmes for all stakeholders are being organized regularly.